

In Nebraska, now more than ever, our rural businesses grow when people are willing to face the uncertainty and risks which others find daunting. In our increasingly competitive global economy, it is essential we ensure there is a permanent, meaningful incentive for all businesses to invest in research and development.

We live in a world with limitless innovation, and I look forward to seeing what the future will bring from further research and development.

URGING PRESIDENT TO SIGN SCHIP LEGISLATION

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, just 2 weeks ago today, tens of thousands of residents from the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts supported my candidacy because they wanted to make sure that all our children have health insurance. Two days later, I began my service to the Fifth District by proudly voting to override President Bush's veto of a children's health care bill that had overwhelming bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, the veto was upheld, but the fact remains that millions of children that need health care don't have it.

Last Thursday, I again voted to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, a program that was first developed in Massachusetts and is now critical to the newly enacted Massachusetts health insurance plan. Every concern raised by the President has been clearly addressed in this bill, but he still threatens to veto it.

I will stand with the strong bipartisan majority, ready to overturn this veto and give 200,000 children in Massachusetts and millions more across the country a chance at a healthy, safe future. I urge the President to sign the bill.

MOTHER OF ALL TAX HIKES—BAD FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY AND WORSE FOR AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Last week, Speaker PELOSI embraced the Democrats' \$1.3 billion tax scheme. The ink is barely dry, but she is already distancing herself from the mother of all tax hikes.

As reported in today's Hill newspaper, the Speaker's office has changed the transcript of her press comments to reflect that she supports Chairman RANGEL's "plan to begin tax reform," not his actual "tax plan."

Maybe the Speaker has caught on to what many Americans have discovered in the fine print. Maybe she figured out that the bill raises taxes on every U.S. taxpayer. Or it could be the part about resurrecting the death tax and penal-

izing small businesses and family farms that is causing her concern. Then again, it might be that she simply agrees that our Tax Code shouldn't punish a man and woman for getting married.

Madam Speaker, you can change the transcript, but you can't change the facts. The Pelosi-Rangel mother of all tax hikes is bad for the U.S. economy and worse for the American taxpayer.

□ 1015

NEW HAMPSHIRE IS RED SOX NATION

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Red Sox Nation. In this House, we often disagree on many issues of national importance, but today we are all part of Red Sox Nation. After trailing Cleveland 3-1 in the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox won seven straight games and won their second World Series crown in 4 years.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we are made up of diehard Red Sox fans, and we are a proud part of Red Sox Nation. There is no such thing as a fair-weather Red Sox fan. Granite Staters went four generations without being able to celebrate a Red Sox championship, and that is why it has been a great week and great year to be a Red Sox fan.

I also want to congratulate Mike Lowell on being named the MVP of the series. Now we can all finally get some sleep. Go Sox.

IN MEMORY OF THE STUDENTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend the University of South Carolina and Clemson University suffered a tragic loss when seven of their fellow students died in a house fire.

As a USC Law School graduate and parent of a current Clemson student, I know the sadness and grief so many must be feeling at this time, and our hearts and prayers go out to these two great communities. I know that the strength and companionship shared by the students, faculty, family and friends, led by President Andrew Sorenson of USC and President Jim Barker of Clemson, will help them through this difficult time.

I wish to express the deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives, my family, and the people of South Carolina to the families and friends of those students who lost their lives. I especially grieve because my mother was a member of Delta Delta

Delta sorority at USC and my father was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at USC.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF LIVES LOST

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to memorialize the lives of Justin Anderson, Travis Cale, Lauren Mahon, Cassidy Pendley, William Rhea, Allison Walden, all students of the University of South Carolina which I proudly represent here in this body, and Emily Yelton, a student of Clemson University.

Madam Speaker, when young men and women go off to pursue education, their families hope for them a bright future and a long life. All seven of these young men and women lost their lives in a fire this weekend, and I join with those that I represent at the University of South Carolina in offering condolences to these families. I also say to the families of Clemson University, our hearts go out to all of them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and this body join me in a moment of silence in memory of these young people.

FUND OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, this is day 30. That is 30 days so far our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That is \$18.5 million a day not able to be used. And why? Because the Democratic leadership has decided to not complete this bill and send it to the President who has agreed to sign it.

In June, this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. We were proud of our work and grateful to our veterans. On September 6, the Senate completed their bill. This work is done. Our veterans are not pawns in a political game. They are heroes.

America expects us to get the job done. America expects us to provide the best care to our veterans. Please join me in calling upon the Democratic leadership to put our veterans first and send this bill to the President now.

PRESIDENT DEMANDS BLANK CHECKS FOR IRAQ

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)